



26 May 2009

Matariki performance

MOANA AND THE TRIBE TO PLAY AT HAWKINS THEATRE

Moana Maniapoto and her latest band The Tribe play the Hawkins Theatre in July as part of Papakura's 2009 Matariki festival of events and performances.

Moana and the Tribe will be returning from the Malaysia Rainforest Festival in Kuching on the island of Borneo to perform in Papakura.

Hawkins Theatre Manager Graeme Bennett says securing Moana and the Tribe for the Matariki is a coup for the Hawkins Theatre.

"We are making high calibre shows like Moana's 'price accessible' to the community as part of our commitment to Papakura and South Auckland's performing arts, especially during our Matariki celebrations."

Moana and the Tribe use ancient Māori musical forms and taonga puoro (traditional instruments)* in their recordings and live performances. Using haka and chants with soul, reggae and classical, the band produces its own blend of traditional and contemporary styles.

The band was formed in 2002 and was soon gaining prominence internationally. Acclaimed as one of the most successful indigenous groups to emerge from Aotearoa, its first album *Toru* entered the European World Music Charts at 17

Moana and the Tribe launched the New Zealand feature film *The Whale Rider* in Germany in 2003 and in the following year returned to New Zealand to support world music superstar Youssou N'dour (2004).

In 2004, Moana Maniapoto became the first non-American to win a major USA-based songwriting contest with her song *Moko* defeating more than 11,000 compositions to win the Grand Jury Prize of the International Songwriting Competition.

Moana and the Tribe have played nearly 150 international concerts. The most recent ranged from Kanak villages in the islands of New Caledonia to sell out concerts in Russia.

Moana Maniapoto has been awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to Maori and music, and in 2007 was also honoured with the prestigious award of New Zealand Art Laureate.

Moana and the Tribe play the Hawkins Theatre on Friday 17 July. Tickets are available from Papakura Paper Power and iticket, 09 361 1000 and www.iticket.co.nz

MEDIA RELEASE

-End-

* Taonga puoro (traditional Māori musical instruments), like the pūkāea (wooden trumpet), hue (gourd), and pūtātara (conch shell trumpet) were originally used for many purposes - as a call to arms in warfare, as a signalling device, and to warn of imminent danger. They are also known to have been used to sound the dawning of a new day, to communicate with Māori gods, and to signify the planting of certain crops at different times of the year.

Note to editors:

1. If you wish to organise an interview please contact Graeme Bennett at the Hawkins Theatre on 09 297 7712 or 0272 268 378. Go to www.moananz.com or www.hawkinstheatre.co.nz for more info or email manager@hawkinstheatre.co.nz

For more information, please contact:

Graeme Bennett
Manager
Hawkins Theatre
Telephone: 09 297 7712
Email: manager@hawkinstheatre.co.nz

Mark Baker
Communications Advisor
Papakura District Council
Telephone: 09 295 1300
Mobile: 027 442 3044
Email: mbaker@papakura.govt.nz